THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

"THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE."

To work, to work! ye good and wise,
Let "Ragged" scholars grace your schools;
Ere Christian children can arise,
They must be trained by Christian rules.

* * * * *

We ask no fragrance from the bud
Where canker-worm is feed and reign;
We seek no health-pulse in the blood,
Where poison runneth in the vein.

* * * * *

Shall we send forth the poor and stark,
All rudderless on stormy seas,
And yet expect their spirit-bark
To ride out every tempest breeze?

* * * * *

To work, to work! ye rich and wise,
Let "Ragged" children claim your care,
Till those who yield crime's jackal cries
Have learned the tones of peace and prayer.

ELIZA COOK.

VOLUME VI.

LONDON:
RAGGED SCHOOL UNION, 12 AND 13, EXETER HALL;
KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

TO OUR READERS.

For thirty-three years this Society has maintained a publication for the purpose of diffusing information regarding their work, and as a means of communication amongst the different workers. Its pages have always been open for matters of inquiry, and for the presentation of fresh schemes and the improvement of old plans of doing good to poor children.

The number and variety of the Society's operations, and the number of persons, juvenile and adult, connected with them, which these operations seek to benefit, are topics with which our readers have been made familiar.

The Ragged School Union has by its means drawn attention to the condition of the lowest stratum of the population, and sought, and successfully, to stimulate Christian people to establish a network of beneficent agencies for its elevation.

Letters from old scholars, which have appeared from time to time, are always welcome. We would gladly see more of them.

The encouragement of thrift has been a prominent characteristic of the work, as witness its penny and farthing banks. This subject has received an immense share of attention during the year. The Earl of Derby, by his able addresses, and the Postmaster-General, Mr. Fawcett, by his excellent departmental arrangements, have done much to stimulate its cultivation.

The destruction of fever-dens and the erection of improved dwellings have passed out of the region of mere talk into that of practical fulfilment, to which the work of this Society has largely contributed.

The celebration of the birthday of our Noble President by the presentation of his portrait, accompanied by an address recounting his eminent services, at a great meeting in the Guildhall, convened by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, was a great success. The presence of Orsman's Costers and Groom's Flower Girls, to place as it were a wreath on the brows of the good Earl, was significant as emphasizing the great services which he has rendered to suffering humanity.

The state of the funds at the beginning of the year was such as to cause uneasiness. The Society's expenditure was considerably beyond its income. It was going to the bad at the rate of £1,000 a year. An appeal was made, in the name of the President, by the Committee, to which a response was made of somewhat hopeful augury. But the subscriptions are still inadequate. The reserve fund had to be encroached on to the extent of nearly £500, so that the appeal for funds may be considered as still standing.

Death has been again amongst us, thinning our ranks of those eminent for service. Chief of these was Miss Charlesworth, author of "Ministering Children," who did great good by the establishment of several Ragged Schools in needy districts. Mr. George Bonsey, Superintendent of Lambeth Ragged School, a true worker, has gone hence at the early age of forty-two. Lord Hatherley, also one of our vice-presidents, ex-Lord Chancellor, and for forty years a Sunday School teacher of poor boys; and last, but not least, Sir Charles Reed, who, though not officially connected with us, was still one with us in spirit. These have passed

"To the beautiful home on high."

R. J. CURTIS, *Editor.*

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DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS in aid of Ragged Schools will be thankfully received at the OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY, by the Secretary, Mr. J. KIRK, 12 and 13, Exeter Hall, Strand; by Messrs. HATCHARD & SON, 187, Piccadilly; Messrs. NISBET & Co., 21, Berners Street; and by the Bankers, Messrs. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & Co., Lombard Street.

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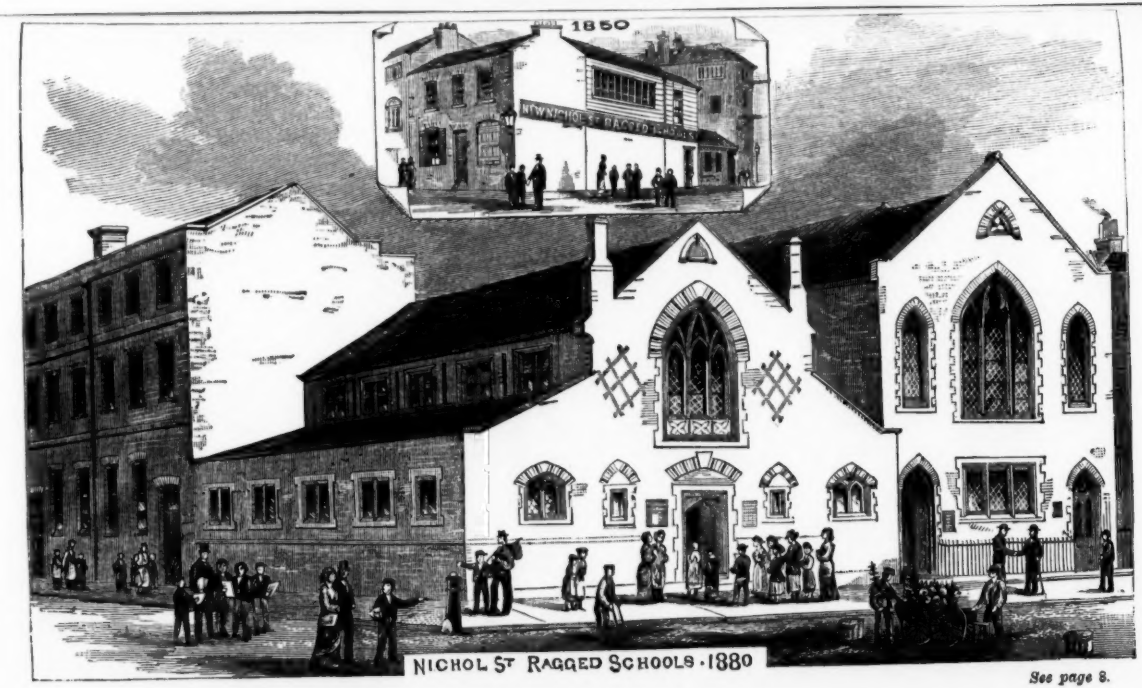
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NEW NICHOL ST RAGGED SCHOOLS
NICHOL ST RAGGED SCHOOLS · 1880

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